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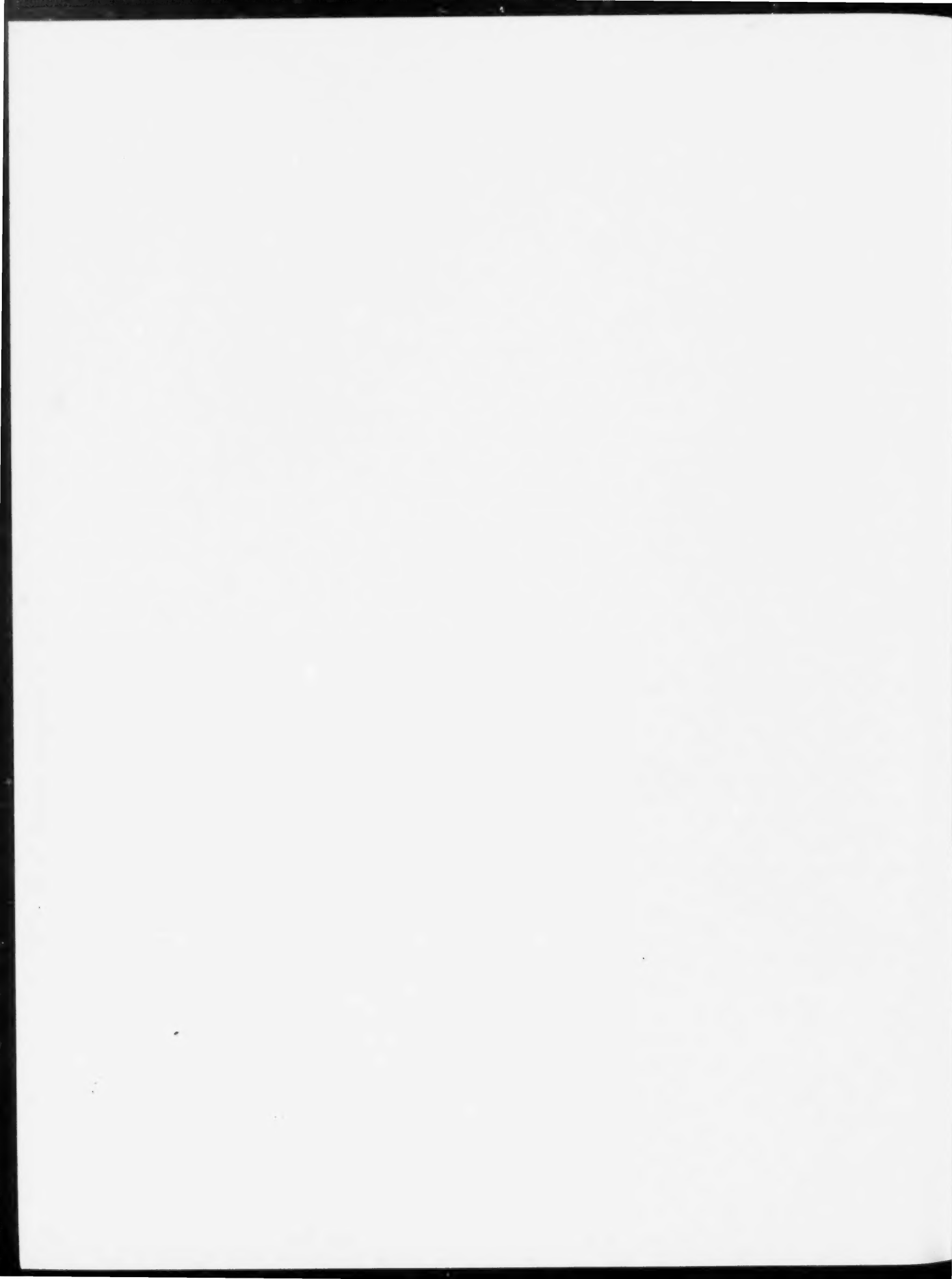
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Notes:

Data used in the construction of all figures contained within the Quarterly Statistical Review are available on request from Research and Planning.



CHARACTERISTICS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN CARE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF CHILD WELFARE ON JULY 31, 1976

ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

This study was undertaken to provide descriptive information about children placed on probation or committed to care of the Director of Child Welfare as temporary wards by juvenile courts because of delinquent activities. Data for the study was obtained from a 100% sample of all children in care on July 31, 1976 who were in care because of delinquency on that date or who had at one time been in care because of delinquency. Subsequently it was decided to focus the analysis on a subsample, namely children age 12-15 who were in care because of delinquency on July 31, 1976. Some analysis is reported for the entire active young offender caseload, which includes juveniles age 12-17. The reader should keep in mind that while the findings reported here can be validly generalized to delinquents in the child welfare caseload at other points in time than July 31, 1976, the findings cannot be generalized to all juvenile offenders in the general population.

FINDINGS

1. General Overview

Young offenders age 12-15 in care on July 31, 1976 were predominately male (83.3%), 14 or 15 years old, and predominately of non-Native racial origins, although Natives, at 23.4% of the sample, were over-represented in relation to the proportion of people in the general population. The general geographical distribution of the sample was roughly proportional to that of the general population, although Calgary was somewhat over-represented, and Edmonton was under-represented. Level of education attained was measured for about 60% of the 12-15 year sub-sample, who had apparently experienced a significant amount of grade retardation in relation to the number of grades they would have completed if they had entered school after age 5 and before age 7 and had failed no grades. In terms of this definition, more than 40% of the 12-15 year sub-sample had experienced at least two years of grade retardation. Variables associated with greater than average grade retardation were Native racial origin, more serious or greater than average number of offenses, and temporary wardship as opposed to probation status on July 31, 1976.

2. Offenses and Offense-Related Variables

Theft and break and enter offenses were predominate as most serious current offense for the 12-15 year sub-sample, with 6.5% having more serious current offenses. When all offenses known to juvenile court are taken into account, 12.6% of the 12-15 year sub-sample had at least one offense more serious than break and enter, of which assault was the most common.

The average number of both current and all known offenses was low (2.3 and 4.2 respectively), and the frequency distributions for both were highly skewed with most of the cases clustered at the lower end. Variables associated with higher than average number of offenses were recidivism (total offense average = 7.6), commission of more serious offenses, and temporary wardship. Native racial origin in itself was not associated with a larger number of offenses, although it was definitely associated with the commission of more serious offenses (13.4% of Natives vs. 11.2% of non-Natives had committed at least one offense more serious than break and enter). This is especially true in cities smaller than Edmonton and Calgary where Natives were 33.9% of the cases, but were 78.6% of those who had at least one offense more serious than break and enter.

Commission of offenses more serious than theft and break and enter was somewhat associated with age (in relation to major personal injury offenses), residence in Edmonton and Calgary (11.3% over-representation), being unemployed or out of school (7.9% over-representation), and being a recidivist (the relationship to this variable is quite strong).

3. Disposition and Post-Disposition Variables

The proportion of 12-15 year old young offenders put on probation, as opposed to being made temporary wards, appeared to be more related to number of current offenses than to seriousness of offenses, except at the extremes. An analysis of relative proximity of placement to location of residence prior to current offenses indicated that approximately 83% of juveniles placed in treatment or assessment centers were placed in the facility that was closest to their location of residence.

CHARACTERISTICS OF JUVENILE OFFENDERS IN CARE OF THE
DIRECTOR OF CHILD WELFARE ON JULY 31, 1976

S. Cowley*

INTRODUCTION

This study resulted from a request made in the fall of 1976 to the Research and Planning Division by the Interdepartmental Committee on Young Offender Policy for the collection and analysis of data on delinquent children in the care of the Director of Child Welfare.** Data was subsequently obtained from a 100% sample of the files of all such children who were in care on July 31, 1976 and either (1) were on probation or were temporary wards, or (2) had been on probation or in care in the past.

BACKGROUND

Although a 100% sample of young offenders in care was drawn for this study, it does not represent all delinquent children in care on July 31, 1976, and it certainly does not represent all delinquent children in the province at that time. When this study was originally conceived, it was hoped that the sample could include delinquent children who had come into the care of the Director of Child Welfare by all possible routes. This would have meant establishing a procedure for identifying delinquents among juveniles who had been taken into care as 'neglected' children under other provisions of the Child Welfare Act, as well as those who had been formally labeled as delinquent through a juvenile court proceeding. Child Welfare Branch staff involved in the initiation of this study pointed out the fact, substantiated by local experience as well as other studies, that 'neglected' and 'delinquent' children are very similar in terms of the origin of their emotional problems and many aspects of their deviant behaviour. Consequently, it was quite reasonable to expect that some juveniles who would have been defined as delinquent if they had been brought to juvenile court, had instead been taken into care as neglect cases. It was rather quickly recognized, however, that systematically identifying this latter group of 'delinquent' juveniles would mean surmounting difficult methodological problems and that it would significantly prolong the time required for extracting data from Child Welfare Branch case files. As a result, the decision was made to include only juveniles in care who had at one time or another been found to be delinquent in court, and who had been subsequently made temporary wards or put on probation.

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**Such children have been placed in the care of the Director of Child Welfare by court action under the terms of the provincial Child Welfare Act. Their actual placement was generally determined by referral committees operating under the auspices of the Child Welfare Branch.

This meant that the sample, as defined for the Child Welfare Branch file search used to obtain the study data consisted of all juveniles who were in care on July 31, 1976 as probationers or temporary wards because a judge had found them to be delinquent.* Finally, active cases age 16 or older have also been excluded from most of the analysis in this report because of the anticipated change in regulation which lowered the maximum juvenile age of girls to 16 less a day on October 1, 1978. In other words, the sub-sample described in this report consists of juveniles under age 16 who were in care (either probation or temporary wardship) on July 31, 1976.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The most important limitations of this study stem from the fact that:

- (1) the sample is not representative of all juveniles in the province who commit offenses, and
- (2) the data obtained from Child Welfare case files is sufficient only for a limited understanding of the characteristics of children in care.

The first limitation is the most important.

The group of juveniles in care at any one point in time is not necessarily representative because the family and environing community of a juvenile offender can react in many different ways to the commission of offenses, or not react at all if the offenses are unnoticed as is often the case for offenses without victims. If a particular juvenile is known by a member of the community to have committed a particular offense, the latter person may (1) give him an informal reprimand, (2) tell his parents, (3) tell other people living in the neighbourhood, (4) tell the police, (5) tell the closest regional office of Alberta Social Services, or (6) do nothing. The choice which is made in any particular instance obviously depends on a variety of factors, among which are, besides the nature and seriousness of the offense, the social class and ethnic identities of the juvenile. Thus, even if this study had been based upon the characteristics of juveniles regarding whom complaints had been made to the police, we still could not assume that our sample was completely representative of all juvenile offenders. As it is, the sample consists of juveniles who have been selected for more formal and more intrusive remedial action in a sequential process through (1) the reporting of their offenses (to the police), in (2) police reaction to complaints sworn against the juveniles (bringing them before juvenile court), and in (3) the adjudication and disposition rendered by the judge in each case (finding them to be delinquent and committing them to the care of the Director of Child Welfare).

Consequently, it is hazardous to generalize from the results of this study to the general population. In particular, one cannot assume that the proportions of the sample having a particular characteristic are the same as those in the general population. For example, although 23.4% of the main study sub-sample was of known Native racial origin, it is not valid to conclude from this figure alone that the same proportion of juvenile offenders in the general population is also of Native racial origin. This latter generalization would be valid only if it were the case that Native and non-Native juvenile offenders were selected for more formal and more intensive

*'juvenile' in this context ordinarily referred to boys age 12 to 15 inclusive and girls age 12 to 17 inclusive at the time of this study.

treatment at each of the steps outlined above. Since this study did not investigate the operation of the juvenile offender selection and treatment processes, we are in no position to generalize the findings to the general population. At most, we can probably generalize to the group of juvenile offenders under the care or supervision of the Director of Child Welfare at points in time several months on either side of July 31, 1976.

The second limitation, that of data quality, reflects the information need which originally prompted the study (basically a need for a general profile of young offenders in care), as well as resource and time limitations. If such limitations had not been present, we could, for example, have included other not easily codable information on file as well as gathered supplementary information through the use of questionnaires or interview schedules.

Data quality limitations resulting from the use of administrative and casework documents are likely unimportant in relation to easily measurable variables such as sex, age and location of residence. This is not the case, as usual, for variables representing aspects of juvenile behaviour, and the various interpretations placed on that behaviour by the courts. Consequently, one must exercise caution in arriving at conclusions regarding the practical implications of the offenses statistics presented in this report.

For example, although differences in offense types were found between Native and non-Native juveniles, we do not know if this indicates a real and significant difference in the incidence of delinquent behaviour in these two groups in the general population, or a difference in the degree to which 'deviant' behaviour of Native and non-Native juveniles is regarded as threatening by the citizen and the police. The suggestion has also been made that Native juveniles tend to plead guilty in court more often than non-Natives, for reasons not presently known. If the reader concludes from the foregoing remarks that the data presented in this report produce more questions than answers, that is probably a good indication that the study has served the useful purpose of revealing the general features of a phenomenon in such a way that more narrowly-focused questions can be used to guide further investigations of it.

TYPES OF VARIABLES

The research design emphasized the collection of several categories of data of concern to the Interdepartmental Committee on Young Offender Policy. These categories relate to major stages in the sequence of events through which children commit offenses, become involved in a court process, and then enter the Departmental child care system, and perhaps re-enter it after a subsequent set of offenses.

The Interdepartmental Committee was interested in a broad descriptive profile of the characteristics of juveniles going through this process rather than in a more narrowly-focused and rigorous hypothesis-testing study of the traditional sort. Data regarding the following variables was obtained for the study from the child welfare files maintained in the Department's central office:

- (1) Social Background Variables: birthdate, sex, race, place of residence, all as of July 31, 1976; education and employment status, at time of last set of offenses.

- (2) Offense Variables: location of recent offenses, number of offenses by type, separated into recent offenses and all previous known offenses. Recent offenses which did not result in temporary committal or probation were excluded.
- (3) Court Process Variables: date complaint sworn against the child, date of disposition and date of adjudication, all for most recent offenses.
- (4) Child Care System Variables: placement of child at time of recent offenses and, subsequent to court proceedings, on July 31, 1976; Child Welfare Branch administrative statuses on July 31, 1976.

The reader should keep in mind that this study reflects a temporal sequence of events leading up to July 31, 1976 that began at various points in time prior to that. A typical young offender (though not all) had a number of past offenses recorded which resulted in him or her being labeled as delinquent before their present involvement. No dates were recorded for past offenses in this study, although almost all would have been committed after the juvenile's twelfth birthday.

More recently, he or she would have come into care again, either as a temporary ward or as a probationer, through a juvenile court.

Size of Subgroup N

The basic subgroup described in this first part of the study report consists of 1,345 cases. Although most of them are represented in most of the tables, the reader will note that for some, the tables present data relating to education in particular, the number of cases represented is considerably smaller. This resulted from a lack of documentation in the Child Welfare files. A short analysis of the subgroup for whom information is missing revealed only a slight under-representation of probationers which is not regarded as indicating that the subgroup is significantly different from the rest.

RESULTS OF DATA ANALYSIS

Social Characteristics

The data presented in this subsection is concisely summarized in Table 1.

Racial Origin

23.4% of the 1,345 cases in the main (under 16) subsample were of identified Native origin (i.e., they had Treaty Indian status or had at least one Indian grandparent). However, the reader should note that racial origin could not be determined for 28.1% of the sample because of incomplete file information.

Sex

83.3% of the main subsample were males. A subsidiary analysis of offense characteristics by sex revealed little difference between males and females, suggesting that other factors are responsible for the high sex ratio.

Age

On July 31, 1976, almost half (45.9%) of the main subsample was fifteen. Over seventy-six percent of this subsample was fourteen or fifteen, in contrast to the general population at that time, in which the size of the one year age groups between twelve and fifteen was almost equal.

Region of Residence

At the time of most recent offense, the main subsample juveniles were distributed between Edmonton and Calgary combined, and the rest of the province, in proportions almost the same as for the general population, although Edmonton and Calgary combined were slightly under-represented (Table 2).

Education

Although number of grades successfully completed was measured in the study, this variable in itself does not have much meaning unless it is related to the age of the juveniles in the sample. This was done through two formulas: one calculates the expected number of completed grades, and the other compares expected grades with actual grades completed to produce an estimate of grade retardation. The results of the analysis done of this variable in relation to others is as follows:

1. more than eighty percent of juveniles for whom education could be determined had at least one year of grade retardation. Over forty percent had two or more years of grade retardation.
2. The data suggest that the juveniles in the main subsample may have been accumulating grade retardation as can be seen in the following figures:

<u>Age</u>	<u>% with two or more years of grade retardation</u>
12	36.1%
13	37.9%
14	34.6%
15	51.2%

3. juveniles of Native origin in the subsample were found to have experienced more grade retardation than non-Natives. The average amount, in years, was 1.9 years for Natives and 1.4 years for non-Natives.
4. juveniles with more serious current offenses, or with a greater number of current offenses also tended to have experienced more grade retardation.
5. a higher proportion of juveniles made temporary wards had experienced two or more years of grade retardation than had juveniles placed on probation (58.5% vs. 36.6%).

None of the data collected in this study indicates exactly when the grade retardation occurred for those experiencing it. In particular, it would be interesting to know how many of the juveniles originally started school late because of developmental or other problems, and how many experienced serious problems with school at a young age prior to becoming delinquent.

OFFENSES

In terms of most serious present offense, the predominant offense types were theft (44.1%) and break and enter (36.0%) (Tables 7 and 8). Offenses more serious than these accounted for 6.5% and offenses less serious than theft and break and enter accounted for 13.4% of the total. The proportions for most serious offense ever committed are similar although offenses more serious than break and enter account for a somewhat higher proportion - 12.6%.

Just as most young offenders committed only moderately serious offenses, most of them didn't commit very many offenses. The average number of current offenses was 2.2 with a range of 1 to 170 (only 1.4% or 19 cases had more than 10 current offenses). The average number of all offenses of which they had been found guilty was 5.0. However, some subgroups within the main subsample had total offense averages almost twice as high as this. In particular, recidivists had a total offense average of 7.6 (Table 9). Recidivists who had at least one offense among the five most serious of the ten offense categories had a slightly higher total offense average of 8.9.

Juveniles who committed more offenses tended to commit more serious offenses (or visa versa). For example, in terms of current offenses, while only 40.4% of those who committed an offense in the five most serious categories had committed only one offense, 72.1% of those whose most serious offense was in the five least serious categories had committed only one offense. Similar relationships of weak to moderate strength were found between types and numbers of previous and present offenses in various combinations.

Although describing offenses by numbers and types committed (as known to the courts) facilitates an objective analysis of delinquent behaviour, additional information is necessary to allow one to draw conclusions regarding the manner in which juvenile courts react to offense patterns of varying types. The only variable included in this study which allowed us to address this point was 'program status', meaning whether a child was placed on probation or made a temporary ward.

The following conclusions are supported by the data relating program status to offense characteristics:

- (a) while most of the subsample was placed on probation (67.4% of 12-15 year olds), a lower proportion of those whose most serious present offense was in the top five categories (major personal injury to break and enter, inclusive) was placed on probation (62.6%) than for those who were in the least serious five categories (70.8%).
- (b) the association between program status and number of present convictions is considerably stronger than the association between program status and seriousness of present offense. Thus, 73.9% of the 12-15 year olds with only one current offense were placed on probation compared to 46.8% of those with four or more current offenses. The strength of association between these two variables would probably be even stronger if a control for most serious offense were applied.

OFFENSES AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

Racial Origin

Juveniles of Native origin constituted a special subgroup of the subsample: the data indicate that they got labeled as delinquent a little earlier than non-Native juveniles (average ages of recidivists, Native and non-Native: 14.0 and 14.4 years), they were somewhat over-represented among recidivists (28.5% of recidivists were Native compared to 23.4% of the 12-16 year old active sample), and a higher proportion of them had committed at least one known offense more serious than break and enter (18.4% of Natives as compared to 11.2% of non-Natives). Also, a somewhat higher proportion of them had been made temporary wards (J.D.A.) as opposed to being put on probation in comparison to the non-Native and 'other racial origin' groups (48.4% of Natives were temporary wards, 41.8% of non-Natives, and 9.9% of the 'other' category). On the other hand, there appears to be no appreciable difference between Natives and non-Natives with regard to the total number of offenses they committed.

In addition, it is rather obvious that Native juveniles were greatly over-represented in the subsample in comparison to the proportion of Natives in the Alberta population (23.4% in the subsample in comparison to 5% in the general population), although not quite as badly as they are over-represented in the child welfare caseload in general (29.6% in August, 1978). Furthermore, almost all of the relevant variables measured in this study indicate that the delinquency of the Native juveniles in the subsample may be a little more serious than that of any other group. However, the reader should be cautioned once again about the hazards involved in generalizing these findings to all juvenile offenders in the general population before we know more about the characteristics of juvenile offenders who are diverted away from the child care system and are 'treated' in other ways.

Age

Little relationship was found between age and most serious current offense. There appears to be a slight difference in regard to the four most serious offense types (major personal injury, sex offenses, assault, robbery), between 4.8% for 12 and 13 year olds and 6.9% for 14 and 15 year olds (Table 14). This difference in itself is hardly significant, but it is consistent in direction with the greater proportions of the 16 and 17 year old juveniles in the older subsample who committed such offenses (11.1% of 253 sixteen year olds and 12.9% of 62 seventeen year olds). It should also be noted that the above aggregation of serious offenses obscures the fact that all the juveniles with major personal injury as most serious current offense were 15 years of age on the study date, July 31, 1976.

The low strength of the relationship between age and seriousness of current offenses is consistent with the differences between age groups in the proportion of juveniles made temporary wards: from 26.5% of 12 year olds to 32.3% of 15 year olds (Table 13).

Location of Current Offense by Regional Office Area

A detailed analysis of the relationship between this variable and the characteristics of offenders and offenses was done only for the more inclusive group of active young offenders in the total

active sample who were age 12-17. This analysis is presented here because the results would undoubtedly be quite similar to those for the 12-15 year age group alone.

Cell size problems made it impossible to do a meaningful analysis relating location of offense to other variables unless the location-of-offense categories were reduced considerably in number. This was accomplished by grouping the Edmonton and Calgary regional offices together in one category, the regional office areas containing smaller cities of more than 6,000 population in another category, and all other areas into a third, largely small town and rural category. The reader will undoubtedly note that this way of grouping the categories is not optional for all parts of the analysis.

Most serious offense ever committed by location of current offense

The data was organized in this manner in Table 15 in order to determine whether or not there were significant differences in total (known) offense profiles between young offenders whose last set of offenses were committed in Edmonton and Calgary and those committing offenses elsewhere. The following conclusions emerge from Table 15:

- (a) active young offenders were slightly under-represented in Edmonton and Calgary regional offices, in relation to the distribution of the general population;
- (b) young offenders whose most serious offense was in the first four (most serious) categories were over-represented among those committing current offenses in Edmonton and Calgary (68.6% vs. 57.3% of all young offenders age 12-17). On the other hand, those whose most serious offense was not in the first four categories were over-represented in other cities, and towns and rural areas.

Racial origin by location of current offense

Basically two conclusions emerge from an examination of Table 16:

- (a) Native juveniles in the sample were evenly distributed across the three location categories, and therefore were over-represented in towns and rural areas and under-represented in Edmonton and Calgary.
- (b) juveniles in the 'other' category, which consisted of non-European origin juveniles and those whose ethnicity was not determinable, were greatly over-represented in Edmonton and Calgary and under-represented elsewhere, both in relation to the 12-17 year old sample (i.e. all 1,681 active cases), and in relation to the general population. This is significant because these people have less serious offense profiles than Natives and 'non-Natives', and they are the largest 'ethnic' subgroup in Edmonton and Calgary in the sample (47.7%).

Most serious offense ever committed by racial origin and location of current offenses

The additional conclusions made possible by this arrangement of the data as presented in Table 20, are as follows:

- (a) Native young offenders were over-represented among those whose most serious offense was one of the top four regardless of where they committed their last offense(s).
- (b) This over-representation was greatest for the small cities, and towns and rural areas categories. For the former category, while Natives were 33.9% of the entire group, they were 78.6% of those whose most serious offense was among the top four. Comparable figures for the towns and rural areas category are 40.2% and 71.9%. The over-representation in these two categories would probably be even greater if regional office areas were excluded which have an insignificant number of Native residents.
- (c) The proportion of offenders whose most serious offense is in the top four categories is somewhat higher in Edmonton and Calgary (16.8%) than in small cities (11.7%) or towns and rural areas (9.1%).

Recidivism status by location of current offense

As can be seen from Table 21, recidivists in the 12-17 age sample were somewhat over-represented in Edmonton and Calgary (63.9% of recidivists were in these two cities although they made up 57.3% of the sample). On the other hand, first offenders were under-represented in Edmonton and Calgary (48.1% of first offenders in the two cities vs. 57.3% in the sample).

Young offender status by location of current offense

Knowing that juveniles with a history of more serious offenses and of repeated appearances in juvenile court were over-represented in the two largest cities, one might expect that judges would more frequently issue temporary wardship orders there rather than placing such juveniles on probation. The data in Table 18 indicates a slight tendency to do this (62.6% of temporary wards were in Edmonton and Calgary although they comprised 57.5% of the sample).

Student Status

A recent Solicitor General study of 16 and 17 year olds in the adult prison population found that students (of all types) were involved in fewer and less serious offenses, and that they were more often placed on probation rather than being incarcerated.

A parallel analysis was done for the 12-15 year old Child Welfare subsample with similar results, although the observed relationships were not as strong. This likely was the result of two factors: (1) school attendance is compulsory for the Child Welfare group, but not for the Solicitor General sample, which was able to self-select; (2) the 'students' in the Child Welfare group included some individuals out of school who were gainfully employed.

The results of the analysis are as follows:

- (a) Most Serious Present Offense: A higher proportion of non-students were in the top five offense categories than were students (50.0% vs. 42.1%).
- (b) Present Offense Total: No difference was observed between students and non-students in the total of present offenses.

- (c) Program Status: A lower proportion of students were made temporary wards (J.D.A.) subsequent to current offenses than were non-students (32.1% vs. 41.4%).
- (d) Proportion of Students and Non-Students placed on Probation, Controlling for Number of Present Offenses: A higher proportion of both students and non-students committing only one current offense were placed on probation than were those committing more than one current offense. (Students: 74.4% at one offense, 58.7% at more than one; non-students: 68.6% at one offense, 45.7% at more than one).

PRE- AND POST-DISPOSITION PLACEMENT OF JUVENILES AND PROXIMITY TO PARENTAL RESIDENCE

Prior to the most current set of offenses (which was the first set for a large fraction of the sample), roughly 84% of the 12-15 year old juveniles were living with parents or relatives (62.8% of temporary wards, 93.6% of probationers). Subsequent to current offenses and juvenile court proceedings, the proportion living with parents or relatives declined to 74% (42.1% of temporary wards and 92.6% of probationers).

A rough analysis of that fraction of juveniles placed in treatment or assessment centers before and after disposition on current offenses indicated that only 18.2% before, and 17.4% after disposition had been placed in a center which was not the closest to the regional office area in which their original, usually parental, residence was located. Few examples of long distance inter-regional movements of the juveniles were found.

DIFFERENCES IN OFFENSE-RELATED CHARACTERISTICS BETWEEN FIRST OFFENDERS AND RECIDIVISTS

In general, recidivists (those who had been labeled as delinquent in juvenile court at least twice) were found to have been more seriously delinquent than first offenders, at least in terms of offences known to the juvenile courts. Furthermore, the data suggests that the child-care system may accumulate recidivists, at least in the 12-15 year age group, through its inability to eliminate their tendencies towards deviant behaviour. The seriousness of this phenomenon, and what proportion of all juveniles placed temporarily in care for delinquency is involved, cannot be directly determined by means of the Child Welfare sample data.

Specific findings are as follows:

- (a) the proportion of recidivists in each one-year age group increases from 33.7% at age 12 to 65.3% at age 15 (Table 19);
- (b) in terms of most serious offense ever committed, 17.6% of individuals in the four most serious offense categories (major personal injury to robbery) were first offenders: 82.4 % of these individuals were recidivists. The comparable figures for the least serious four categories are 75.2% (first offenders) and 24.8% (recidivists).
- (c) first offenders have committed a total of about two offenses, while recidivists have committed a total of about eight, on the average. The distributions for both groups are highly skewed with a small fraction of the cases committing a large number of offenses.

TABLE 1

Summary of the Distribution of Cases
on Selected Variables

Variables	Young Offenders		Missing Cases	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
<u>Total Sample Under Age 16</u>	1,345	00.0		
<u>Young Offender Status</u>				
Probation	898	67.4	3	0.2
Temporary Wardship	435	32.6		
<u>Present Most Serious Offense</u>				
Major Personal Injury	5	0.4	1	0.1
Sex	5	0.4		
Assault	60	4.5		
Robbery	16	1.2		
Break and Enter	485	36.1		
Theft	593	44.1		
Drug	58	4.3		
Liquor	21	1.6		
Traffic	18	1.2		
Other	83	6.2		
<u>Number of Present Convictions</u>				
One	778	58.4	12	0.9
Two or Three	380	28.5		
Four or More	173	13.1		
<u>Previous Most Serious Offense</u>				
Major Personal Injury	2	0.2	2	0.2
Sex	3	0.4		
Assault	70	9.1		
Robbery	18	2.3		
Break and Enter	383	49.7		
Theft	213	27.6		
Drug	24	3.1		
Liquor	13	1.7		
Traffic	14	1.8		
Other	32	4.1		
<u>Number of Previous Convictions</u>				
None	571	42.5	2	0.1
One	216	16.1		
Two or Three	206	15.3		
Four or More	350	26.1		
<u>Age</u>				
12	98	7.4	18	1.3
13	216	16.3		
14	404	30.4		
15	609	45.9		
<u>Level of Education Achieved</u>				
Grade 9 and Under	1,003	93.4	271	20.1
Grade 10 and Over	71	6.6		
<u>Occupational Status</u>				
Student	1,185	93.4	65	4.8
Non-Student	83	6.6		
<u>Racial Origin</u>				
Native	315	23.4	0	0.0
Non-Native	570	42.3		
Other	460	34.3		
<u>Sex</u>				
Male	1,120	83.3		
Female	224	16.7	1	0.07

TABLE 2

LOCATION OF RESIDENCE AT TIME OF OFFENSE
BY YOUNG OFFENDER STATUS

	#	%	Percentage Distribution of Population
Athabasca	8	0.60	0.49
Banff	2	0.15	----*
Barrhead	13	0.97	1.59
Blairmore	15	1.12	0.77
Bonnyville	13	0.97	1.02
Brooks	16	1.20	0.78
Calgary	427	31.91	28.80
Camrose	3	0.22	1.20
Drumheller	5	0.37	1.37
Edmonton	369	27.58	32.25
Edson	4	0.30	1.31
Ft. McMurray	7	0.52	0.95
Grande Cache	2	0.15	0.25
Grande Prairie	42	3.14	2.34
Hanna	12	0.90	0.65
High Level	9	0.67	0.43
High Prairie	41	3.06	0.72
Lac La Biche	12	0.90	0.42
Lethbridge	84	6.29	5.77
Medicine Hat	45	3.36	2.61
Olds	8	0.60	0.96
Peace River	19	1.42	1.17
Red Deer	60	4.48	3.78
Rocky Mtn. House	23	1.72	0.62
Slave Lake	2	0.15	0.40
Smoky Lake	0	0.00	0.59
Stettler	12	0.90	0.96
St. Paul	4	0.30	0.58
Vegreville	6	0.45	1.29
Vermilion	17	1.27	1.20
Wainwright	7	0.52	1.14
Wetaskiwin	46	3.44	3.03
Whitecourt	5	0.37	0.56
Total	1,338		100.00

Data Source: Statistics Canada, early census counts for 1976 as aggregated by the Social Security Division, Research and Planning.

*A percentage population figure for Banff is not included because Banff is not within a regional office area.

Missing Cases = 7 (0.5%)

TABLE 3

AVERAGE DEGREE OF GRADE RETARDATION IN YEARS,
BY AGE ON JULY 31, 1976

Grade Retardation Years	Age								Total	
	12		13		14		15			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
None	17	21.9	26	15.8	49	15.8	55	11.4	147	14.2
One	34	42.0	75	45.4	149	47.9	180	37.4	438	42.4
Two or Three	28	34.6	51	30.9	110	35.4	230	47.8	419	40.4
Four or More	2	1.5	13	7.9	3	0.9	16	3.4	34	3.2
Total	81	100.0	165	100.0	311	100.0	481	100.0	1,038	100.0

Missing Cases = 307 (22.8%)

TABLE 4

AVERAGE DEGREE OF GRADE RETARDATION
IN YEARS, BY RACE AND AGE ON JULY 31, 1976

Age*	Race				Total	
	Native		Non-Native			
	#	Average	#	Average	#	Average
12	35	1.50	20	0.98	55	1.31
13	43	2.06	68	1.48	111	1.70
14	74	1.81	130	1.20	204	1.42
15	93	2.17	219	1.63	312	1.79
Total	245	1.94	437	1.45	682	1.63

*Average age of Native juveniles = 14.5 years
 Average age of non-Native juveniles = 14.2 years
 Missing Cases = 203 (22.9%)

TABLE 5 AVERAGE DEGREE OF GRADE RETARDATION IN YEARS,
BY RACIAL ORIGIN

Grade Retardation Years	Native		Non-Native		Other		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
None	23	9.3	50	11.9	74	20.1	147	14.2
One	81	32.8	183	43.7	172	46.7	436	42.1
Two	88	35.6	139	33.2	109	29.6	336	32.4
Three	31	12.6	41	9.8	9	2.4	83	8.0
Four or More	24	9.7	6	1.4	4	1.2	34	3.3
Total	247	100.0	419	100.0	368	100.0	1,036	100.0

Missing Cases = 309 (23.0%)

TABLE 6 AVERAGE DEGREE OF GRADE RETARDATION IN YEARS
BY MOST SERIOUS PRESENT OFFENSE

Grade Retardation Years	Most Serious Present Offense					
	Crimes Against Persons*		Break & Enter and Theft		Other	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
None or One	30	47.6	472	56.0	84	62.7
Two or Three	29	46.0	341	40.4	50	37.3
Four or More	4	6.4	30	3.6	--	--
Total	63	100.0	843	100.0	134	100.0

*Includes major personal injury, sex offenses, assault and robbery.

TABLE 7

PRESENT MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE BY NUMBER
OF PRESENT OFFENSES

Present Most Serious Offense	One		Two-Three		Four or More		Total		Average Number of Present Convictions
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Major personal injury & assault	27	40.9	25	37.9	14	21.2	66	100.0	2.3
Sex	5	100.0	--	--	--	0.0	5	100.0	1.0
Robbery	12	75.0	3	18.8	1	6.2	16	100.0	11.8
Break & Enter	186	38.5	161	33.3	136	28.2	483	100.0	3.1
Theft	408	68.9	164	27.7	20	3.4	592	100.0	1.5
Drug	53	91.4	5	8.6	--	0.0	58	100.0	1.1
Liquor	19	86.4	3	13.6	--	0.0	22	100.0	1.2
Traffic	5	27.8	11	61.1	2	11.1	18	100.0	1.9
Other	72	86.7	8	9.6	3	3.7	83	100.0	1.6
Total	787	58.6	380	28.3	176	13.1	1,343	100.0	2.2

Missing Cases = 2 (0.1%)

TABLE 8
AVERAGE NUMBER OF CURRENT OFFENSES
BY MOST SERIOUS PRESENT OFFENSE

Most Serious Present Offense	Average Number of Present Offenses	
	#	Average
Major Personal Injury	5	4.4
Sex	5	1.0
Assault	61	2.1
Robbery	16	11.8
Break & Enter	483	3.1
Theft	592	1.5
Drug	58	1.1
Liquor	22	1.2
Traffic	18	1.9
Other	83	1.6
Total	1,343	2.2

Missing Cases = 2 (0.1%)

TABLE 9 TOTAL NUMBER OF OFFENSES EVER COMMITTED
BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE EVER COMMITTED, RACIAL ORIGIN,
AND RECIDIVISM STATUS

Most Serious Offense	First Offenders				Recidivists				Total	
	Native #	Average	Non-Native #	Average	Other #	Average	Native #	Average	Non-Native #	Average
Major Personal Injury	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	12.4	2	30.0
Sex	--	--	1	1.0	2	1.0	--	--	3	2.7
Assault	6	1.7	5	1.4	10	1.8	36	8.1	31	8.7
Robbery	4	1.0	2	1.0	--	--	7	9.6	13	12.4
Break & Enter	40	2.4	95	2.3	64	2.5	133	8.8	202	9.6
Theft	34	1.2	103	1.4	117	1.5	29	3.6	62	3.7
Drug	7	1.3	10	1.0	11	1.0	3	2.0	4	4.0
Liquor	1	3.0	2	1.0	2	1.0	2	3.0	4	2.5
Traffic	2	2.0	4	1.0	3	1.7	--	--	3	6.3
Other	4	1.0	19	1.4	23	1.6	2	2.0	4	7.0
Total	98	1.8	241	1.7	232	1.8	217	7.9	328	8.3
									217	6.1
										5.0

Missing Cases = 2 (0.1%)

TABLE 10 AGE BY YOUNG OFFENDER STATUS

Age	Young Offender Status				Total	
	Temporary Wards (JDA)		Probation			
	#	%	#	%	#	%
12	26	6.0	72	8.0	98	7.4
13	66	15.3	150	16.8	216	16.3
14	144	33.3	260	29.1	404	30.4
15	196	45.4	413	46.1	609	45.9
Total	432	100.0	895	100.0	1,327	100.0

Missing Cases = 18 (1.3%)

TABLE 11 MOST SERIOUS PRESENT OFFENSE BY PROGRAM STATUS

Current Most Serious Offense	Probation Only		JDA Wardship		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Major Personal Injury	-	-	5	100.0	5	100.0
Sex	2	40.0	3	60.0	5	100.0
Assault	31	50.8	30	49.2	61	100.0
Robbery	12	80.0	3	20.0	15	100.0
Break & Enter	310	64.4	171	35.6	481	100.0
Theft	399	67.8	189	32.2	588	100.0
Drug	46	82.1	10	17.9	56	100.0
Liquor	15	68.2	7	31.8	22	100.0
Traffic	17	100.0	-	-	17	100.0
Other	64	79.0	17	31.0	81	100.0
Total	896	67.3	435	32.7	1,331	100.0

Missing Cases = 14 (1.0)

TABLE 12
MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE EVER COMMITTED BY RACIAL ORIGIN
CONTROLLING FOR RECIDIVISM STATUS

Most Serious Offense	Native				Non-Native				Other				Row Total				All Cases			
	Recidivists		First Offenders		Recidivists		First Offenders		Recidivists		First Offenders		Recidivists		First Offenders		Recidivists		First Offenders	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Major Personal Injury	5	2.3	--	--	2	0.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	7	0.9	--	--	7	0.5	7	0.5
Sex	--	--	--	--	3	0.9	1	0.4	2	0.9	2	0.9	5	0.6	3	0.5	8	0.6	8	0.6
Assault	36	16.6	6	6.1	31	9.5	5	2.1	34	15.8	10	4.3	101	13.1	21	3.7	122	9.1	122	9.1
Robbery	7	3.2	4	4.1	13	4.0	2	0.8	7	3.2	--	--	27	3.6	6	1.0	33	2.4	33	2.4
Break & Enter	133	61.3	40	40.8	202	61.6	95	39.4	99	45.6	66	28.2	440	57.1	201	35.0	641	47.7	641	47.7
Theft	29	13.4	34	34.8	62	18.9	103	42.8	68	31.3	117	50.0	161	20.9	255	44.4	416	31.0	416	31.0
Drug	3	1.4	7	7.1	4	1.2	10	4.1	5	2.3	11	4.7	12	1.6	28	4.9	40	2.9	40	2.9
Liquor	2	0.9	1	1.0	4	1.2	2	0.8	2	0.9	2	0.9	8	1.0	5	0.9	13	1.0	13	1.0
Traffic	--	--	2	2.0	3	0.9	4	1.7	--	--	3	1.3	3	0.4	9	1.6	12	0.9	12	0.9
Other	2	0.9	4	4.1	4	1.2	19	7.9	--	--	23	9.7	5	0.8	46	8.0	52	3.9	52	3.9
Total	217	100.0	98	100.0	328	100.0	241	100.0	217	100.0	234	100.0	770	100.0	574	100.0	1,344	100.0	1,344	100.0

Missing Cases = 1 (0.1%)

TABLE 13 ACTIVE YOUNG OFFENDERS BY AGE AND PROGRAM STATUS

Age	Status				Total	
	Probation		Temporary Wardship (JDA)			
	#	%	#	%	#	%
11	1	25.0	3	75.0	4	100.0
12	72	72.0	26	26.5	98	100.0
13	150	69.4	66	30.6	216	100.0
14	266	64.4	144	35.6	404	100.0
15	413	67.6	196	32.2	609	100.0
Total	896	67.3	435	32.7	1,331	100.0

Missing Cases = 14 (1.0%)

TABLE 14 AGE ON JULY 31, 1976 BY PRESENT MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE

Age	Present Most Serious Offense								Total	
	Crimes Against Persons and Property		Ltheft and Break and Enter		Drug Offenses		Other Offenses			
12	8	5.1	76	77.6	6	6.1	11	11.2	98	100.0
13	10	4.6	183	84.7	2	0.9	21	9.8	216	100.0
14	34	8.2	321	78.7	16	3.9	37	9.1	408	100.0
15	37	6.1	493	80.0	34	5.5	52	8.5	616	100.0
Total	86	6.4	1,073	80.2	58	4.3	121	9.1	1,338	100.0

Missing Cases = 12 (0.9%)

TABLE 15 LOCATION OF CURRENT OFFENSE BY MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE
EVER COMMITTED, FOR ACTIVE YOUNG OFFENDERS AGE 12-17

Most Serious Offense	Edmonton/ Calgary		Other City		Town or Rural Area		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Major Personal Injury	12	100.0	--	--	--	--	12	100.0
Sex	13	72.2	5	27.8	--	--	18	100.0
Assault	109	66.1	29	17.6	27	16.4	165	100.0
Robbery	28	68.3	6	19.5	5	12.2	41	100.0
Total	162	68.6	42	17.8	32	13.6	236	100.0
Break & Enter	392	50.6	196	25.3	187	24.1	775	100.0
Theft	327	65.4	85	17.0	88	17.6	500	100.0
Total	719	56.4	281	22.0	275	21.6	1,275	100.0
Drug	31	50.0	17	27.4	14	22.6	62	100.0
Liquor	14	50.0	7	25.0	7	25.0	28	100.0
Traffic	7	50.0	--	--	7	50.0	14	100.0
Other	31	50.0	15	24.2	16	25.8	62	100.0
Total	83	50.0	39	23.5	44	26.5	166	100.0
TOTAL	964	57.3	362	21.7	351	21.0	1,677	100.0
Proportion of Population in Area		61.0		19.7		19.3		100.0

Missing Cases = 4 (0.2%)

TABLE 16

RACIAL ORIGIN BY LOCATION OF CURRENT OFFENSE,
FOR ACTIVE YOUNG OFFENDERS

Racial Origin	Edmonton/ Calgary		Other City		Town or Rural Area		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Native	138	34.4	122	30.4	141	35.2	401	100.0
Non-Native	361	49.4	204	27.9	166	22.7	731	100.0
Other	456	84.7	38	6.9	46	8.4	540	100.0
Total	955	57.1	364	21.8	353	21.1	1,672	100.0
Proportion of General Population in Area		61.0		19.7		19.3		100.0

Missing Cases = 9 (0.5%)

TABLE 17

RECIDIVISM STATUS BY LOCATION OF CURRENT OFFENSE
FOR ACTIVE YOUNG OFFENDERS

Recidivism Status	Edmonton/ Calgary		Other City		Town or Rural Area		Total		
	#	Row %	#	Row %	#	Row %	#	Row %	Col. %
Repeaters	626	63.9	189	19.3	164	16.8	979	100.0	58.2
First Offenders	338	46.1	175	24.9	189	26.9	702	100.0	41.8
Total	964	57.3	364	21.7	353	21.0	1,681	100.0	100.0
Proportion of Population in Area		61.0		19.7		19.3		100.0	

Missing Cases = 0 (0%)

TABLE 18

YOUNG OFFENDER STATUS BY LOCATION
OF CURRENT OFFENSE

Young Offender Status	Edmonton/ Calgary		Other City		Town or Rural Area		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Temporary Ward	333	62.6	105	19.7	94	17.7	532	100.0
Probation	621	55.1	259	23.0	247	21.9	1,127	100.0
Total	954	57.5	364	21.9	341	20.6	1,659	100.0
Proportion of Population in Area		61.0		19.7		19.3		100.0

Missing Cases = 22 (1.3%)

TABLE 19

ACTIVE YOUNG OFFENDERS BY AGE
AND RECIDIVISM STATUS

Age	Recidivism Status				Total	
	First Offenders		Recidivists			
	#	%	#	%	#	%
11	--	--	4	--	4	100.0
12	65	66.3	33	33.7	98	100.0
13	117	54.2	99	45.8	216	100.0
14	176	43.1	232	56.9	408	100.0
15	214	34.7	402	65.3	616	100.0
Total	572	42.6	770	57.4	1,342	100.0

Missing Cases = 3 (0.2%)

TABLE 20a Most Serious Offense Ever Committed,
by Racial Origin, Controlling for Location
of Current Offenses, for Active Young Offenders
Age 12-17

Edmonton and Calgary

Most Serious Offense	Native		Non-Native		Total	
	#	Row %	#	Row %	#	Row %
First four offense categories	34	21.2	126	78.8	160	16.8
Break & enter, theft categories	98	13.8	614	86.2	712	74.6
Last four offense categories	6	7.2	77	92.8	83	8.6
Total	138	14.5	817	85.5	955	100.0

Missing Cases = 9 (0.9%)

TABLE 20b Most Serious Offense Ever Committed,
by Racial Origin, Controlling for Location
of Current Offenses, for Active Young Offenders
Age 12-17

Small Cities

Most Serious Offense	Native		Non-Native		Total	
	#	Row %	#	Row %	#	Row %
First four offense categories	33	78.6	9	21.4	42	11.7
Break & enter, theft categories	79	28.3	200	71.7	279	77.5
Last four offense categories	10	25.6	29	74.4	39	10.8
Total	122	33.9	238	66.1	360	100.0

Missing Cases = 4 (1.1%)

TABLE 20c Most Serious Offense Ever Committed,
by Racial Origin, Controlling for Location
of Current Offenses, for Active Young Offenders
Age 12-17

Towns and Rural Areas

Most Serious Offense	Native		Non-Native		Total	
	#	Row %	#	Row %	#	Row %
First four offense categories	23	71.9	9	28.1	32	9.1
Break & enter, theft categories	111	40.4	164	59.6	275	78.3
Last four offense categories	7	15.9	37	84.1	44	12.6
Total	141	40.2	210	59.8	351	100.0

Missing Cases = 2 (0.6%)

TABLE 21 YOUNG OFFENDERS BY TOTAL NUMBER
OF PRESENT OFFENSES

Offenses	#	Young Offenders %
<u>One</u>	787	58.6
<u>Two or Three</u>		
2	266	19.7
3	144	8.6
<u>Four or More</u>		
4	64	4.9
5	31	2.3
6	32	2.4
7	12	0.9
8	11	0.8
9	4	0.3
10	3	0.2
11	2	0.1
12	2	0.1
13	4	0.3
18	2	0.1
21	2	0.1
23	2	0.1
24	2	0.1
30	2	0.1
170	1	0.1
Total	1,343	100.0

Average number of offenses = 2.3
Missing Cases = 2 (0.1%)

HIGHLIGHTS OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The distribution of the public assistance caseload by reason for assistance for the quarter July-September 1978 is compared in Table 1 with the previous quarter. The total average caseload decreased by 1,174 (3.43 percent) to 33,065. Persons with dependent children remained the largest category receiving public assistance with a caseload of 14,045 or 42.5 percent of the total caseload. This was followed by persons receiving public assistance due to physical ill health or disability (17.5 percent) and persons 60 years of age and over (15.3 percent). These three reasons for assistance comprised 75.3 percent of the total caseload.

Employables decreased 13.4 percent from the April-June quarter. This decline can be attributed mainly to the new policy implemented April 1, 1978 regarding single employables, as well as to the seasonal decline expected in the summer months. Under the new policy, single employables were provided with a maximum of two weeks assistance if in their own or shared rental accommodation, or if in a board and lodging accommodation. Single employables residing in Edmonton or Calgary who did not have accommodation arrangements were referred to the single men's hostel or the women's overnight shelter. As a result, there were fewer applications for assistance than in the previous quarter.

Persons with dependent children decreased 2.2 percent to a caseload of 14,045 this quarter. This decline can be attributed mainly to the new policy affecting single parents. The new policy, implemented April 1, 1978 requires single parents with one child four months of age or older and single parents with two children 12 years of age or older to take employment or training (if required) for employment, when both mother and child(ren) are mentally and physically healthy.

The age-sex distribution for July-September is shown in Table 2. In line with the decrease in employables, male caseload decreased 5.9 percent to an average caseload of 10,428. Males below 45 years of age decreased by 9.1 percent and those aged 45 or older decreased by 4.1 percent. The largest age group for males continued to be those 20-24 and 60-64, constituting 25.4 percent of all males and 8.0 percent of the total caseload.

Female caseload decreased 2.2 percent to an average of 22,637 this quarter. This was due mainly to the implementation of the new single parent policy. Females below 45 years of age decreased 2.7 percent and those 45 or older decreased 1.2 percent. The largest female age groups were those 20-24 and 25-29, constituting 31.9 percent of the female caseload and 21.8 percent of the total caseload.

The distribution of public assistance cases among the 41 regional offices is shown in Table 3. Edmonton and Calgary regional offices accounted for 66.1 percent of the total caseload. Only five regional offices showed an increase in caseload over last quarter, the largest being High Prairie (7.4 percent) and Brooks (7.0 percent).

Public assistance cases by employment status and reason for assistance for July-September 1978 are shown in Table 4. The total number of persons are public assistance and in the labour force increased by 1.7 percent to 10,197. The number of persons on public assistance and not

in the labour force decreased by 5.5 percent to 22,838. Persons with dependents required to care for children declined 9.2 percent to 8,091 cases. This is a direct result of the single parent policy implemented in April 1978 (see above). Consequently, those employed increased slightly to 2,637 and those available for full-time work increased by 37.0 percent to 1,923 cases. Employables available for full-time work declined 17.6 percent to 2,186 cases and those in school or training decreased 39.1 percent to 299.

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF CASELOAD BY REASON FOR ASSISTANCE, ALBERTA
July-September 1978

Reasons for Assistance	Quarterly Average April-June 1978		Jul		Aug		Sept		Quarterly Average July-Sept 1978		Percentage Change Between Quarters	
	#	%	#		#		#		#	%	%	
Age 60+	5,170	15.10	5,053		5,061		5,037		5,050	15.27	-2.32	
Physical Ill Health/ Disability	5,890	17.20	5,745		5,853		5,798		5,799	17.54	-1.54	
Mental Ill Health	1,964	5.74	1,939		1,924		1,915		1,926	5.83	-1.93	
Mental Retardation	1,106	3.23	1,138		1,152		1,158		1,149	3.47	+3.89	
Unsuited for Employment	878	2.56	868		894		880		881	2.66	+0.34	
Persons with Dependent Children	14,366	41.96	13,934		14,126		14,075		14,045	42.48	-2.23	
Employables	4,865	14.21	3,926		4,276		4,444		4,215	12.75	-13.36	
Total	34,239	100.00	32,603		33,286		33,307		33,065	100.00	-3.43	
Percentage Change From Previous Month			-3.34		+2.09		+0.06					
Percentage Change From Previous Quarter	-7.02								-3.43			
Unemployment Rates*	4.4		4.7		4.6		4.6		4.6			

* Source: Canada Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada

TABLE 2 AGE-SEX DISTRIBUTION OF CASELOAD, ALBERTA
July-September 1978

Age Group	Males		Females		Both Sexes	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
15-19	522	1.58	1,635	4.95	2,157	6.53
20-24	1,272	3.85	3,938	11.91	5,210	15.76
25-29	1,138	3.44	3,272	9.90	4,410	13.34
30-34	951	2.88	2,758	8.34	3,709	11.22
35-39	879	2.66	2,050	6.20	2,929	8.86
40-44	788	2.38	1,648	4.98	2,436	7.36
45-49	896	2.71	1,471	4.45	2,367	7.16
50-54	985	2.98	1,367	4.13	2,352	7.11
55-59	946	2.86	1,493	4.52	2,439	7.38
60-64	1,379	4.17	1,683	5.69	3,262	9.86
65+	672	2.03	1,122	3.39	1,794	5.42
Total	10,428	31.54	22,637	68.46	33,065	100.00

TABLE 3

DISTRIBUTION AND CHANGE IN CASELOAD BY DISTRICT OFFICES, ALBERTA
July-September 1978

District Office	Quarterly Average Apr-June 1978		Quarterly Average July-Sept 1978		Rank Order Over Last Quarter		Rate of Change Over Last Quarter
	#	%	#	%	Last Quarter	This Quarter	
Edmonton North	5,569	16.26	5,509	16.66	1	1	-1.08
Calgary North	3,039	8.93	3,031	9.17	2	2	-0.92
Clayburn Centre	2,698	7.88	2,605	7.88	4	3	-3.45
Edmonton West	2,550	7.44	2,458	7.43	3	4	-3.61
Calgary South	2,467	7.21	2,403	7.27	6	5	-2.59
Alberta Place	1,733	5.06	1,680	5.08	5	6	-3.06
Lethbridge	1,613	4.71	1,528	4.62	7	7	-5.27
Edmonton West 10	1,390	4.06	1,373	4.15	8	8	-1.22
Red Deer	1,309	3.82	1,167	3.53	9	9	-10.85
Bonnie Doon	1,080	3.15	1,106	3.34	12	10	+2.41
Edmonton South	986	2.88	889	2.69	10	11	-9.84
Grande Prairie	947	2.77	882	2.67	11	12	-6.86
Wetaskiwin	757	2.21	736	2.23	13	13	-2.77
Medicine Hat	708	2.07	653	1.97	14	14	-7.77
St. Albert	520	1.52	513	1.55	15	15	-1.35
High Prairie	417	1.22	448	1.35	16	16	+7.43
Barrhead	446	1.30	427	1.29	17	17	-4.26
Lac La Biche	398	1.16	393	1.19	19	18	-1.26
Edson	378	1.10	383	1.16	20	19	+1.32
Peace River	360	1.05	325	0.98	18	20	-9.72
Vegreville	354	1.03	323	0.98	23	21	-8.76
Bonnyville	321	0.94	306	0.93	24	22	-4.67
Sherwood Park	302	0.88	292	0.88	26	23	-3.31
St. Paul	293	0.86	283	0.86	25	24	-3.41
Drumheller	300	0.88	276	0.83	22	25	-8.00
Slave Lake	324	0.95	268	0.81	21	26	-17.28
Vermilion	271	0.79	258	0.78	28	27	-4.80
Camrose	255	0.75	251	0.76	27	28	-1.57
Rocky Mtn. House	256	0.75	244	0.74	30	29	-4.69
Ft. McMurray	262	0.77	236	0.71	29	30	-9.92
Blairmore	235	0.69	230	0.70	32	31	-2.13
Olds	230	0.67	212	0.64	31	32	-7.83
Wainwright	202	0.59	194	0.59	34	33	-3.96
High Level	207	0.61	193	0.58	33	34	-6.76
Smoky Lake	203	0.59	184	0.56	35	35	-9.36
Athabasca	181	0.53	172	0.52	36	36	-4.97
Brooks	158	0.46	169	0.51	39	37	+6.96
Stettler	170	0.50	158	0.48	38	38	-1.06
Whitecourt	147	0.43	148	0.45	37	39	+0.68
Hanna	99	0.29	83	0.25	40	40	-16.16
Grande Cache	84	0.24	76	0.23	41	41	-9.52
Total	34,239	100.00	33,065	100.00			-3.43

TABLE 4

AVERAGE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CASES BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND REASON FOR ASSISTANCE, ALBERTA
July-September 1978

Reasons for Assistance	REASON FOR ASSISTANCE									
	Aged 60+		Persons with Dependent Children		Physical Illness or Disability		Mental Illness		Mental Retardation	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
IN THE LABOR FORCE										
<u>Employed:</u>										
Employed and awaiting pay	-	-	209	1.49	16	0.27	-	-	741	17.60
Fully employed	24	0.48	1,026	7.33	48	0.83	83	4.32	111	9.64
Part-time--not seeking										
Full-time	138	2.74	1,014	7.23	186	3.21	151	7.85	112	9.73
Working part-time--seeking or encouraged to seek full-time	6	0.12	372	2.65	18	0.31	16	0.83	8	0.70
Self-employment	31	0.61	14	0.09	23	0.40	-	-	50	1.19
SUBTOTAL	199	3.95	2,637	18.79	291	5.02	250	13.00	231	20.07
<u>Available for Work:</u>										
Available for full-time work	46	0.91	1,923	13.71	108	1.86	56	2.91	9	0.78
Available for part-time work	24	0.48	150	1.07	32	0.55	12	0.63	55	1.31
Available for sheltered work	-	-	-	-	118	2.04	116	6.03	142	12.34
SUBTOTAL	70	1.39	2,073	14.78	258	4.45	184	9.57	151	13.12
TOTAL IN THE LABOR FORCE	269	5.34	4,710	33.57	549	9.47	434	22.57	382	33.19
NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE										
<u>Preparing for Employment:</u>										
Attending school up to and including Grade 12	-	-	157	1.12	24	0.41	7	0.36	39	3.39
Attending technical or vocational training	-	-	395	2.81	49	0.85	52	2.71	109	2.59
Attending post secondary education	-	-	74	0.53	14	0.24	-	-	11	0.26
SUBTOTAL	-	-	626	4.46	87	1.50	59	3.07	159	7.10
<u>Unavailable for Work Due to Illness or Age:</u>										
Illness up to 90 days	39	0.77	208	1.48	1,122	19.35	122	6.34	-	-
Illness 90 days or over	932	18.48	249	1.78	3,445	59.43	850	44.20	368	31.97
Age	3,405	67.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL	4,376	86.77	457	3.26	4,567	78.78	972	50.54	368	31.97
<u>Unavailable to Work Due to Other Reasons:</u>										
Required to care for children	45	0.89	8,091	57.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expecting a child	-	-	66	0.47	206	1.56	-	-	49	1.16
In jail less than 90 days	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	0.22
SUBTOTAL	45	0.89	8,157	58.14	206	1.56	-	-	58	1.38
<u>Unsuitable for Employment:</u>	353	7.00	80	0.57	388	6.69	458	23.82	362	31.45
TOTAL NOT IN THE LABOR FORCE	4,774	94.66	9,320	66.43	5,248	90.53	1,489	77.43	769	66.81
TOTAL	5,043	100.00	14,030	100.00	5,797	100.00	1,923	100.00	1,151	100.00
Missing Data	-7	-	-15	-	-2	-	-3	-	-5	-
TOTAL CASELOAD	5,050		14,045		5,799		1,926		1,149	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN (A.A.I.P.)

The maximum amounts of federal and provincial senior citizen benefits are presented in Table 1. During the July-September 1978 quarter, pensioners received a federal Old Age Security (O.A.S.) pension of \$159.79 per month. Pensioners with limited income from other sources also received benefits from the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (G.I.S.) and the Alberta Assured Income Plan (A.A.I.P.). The maximum G.I.S. payment per month was \$112.08 per month for a single pensioner and \$199.04 per two-pensioner couple. The maximum monthly A.A.I.P. payment was \$45.01 per single pensioner and \$94.40 per two-pensioner couple. Both G.I.S. and A.A.I.P. payments are reduced with increasing income from other sources. The payments vary with marital status and spouse's eligibility for O.A.S. or Spouse's Allowance.

The number of A.A.I.P. recipients by marital status is shown in Table 2. There was an average of 79,040 recipients per month during the July-September 1978 quarter. This was an increase of 1.66 percent from the previous quarter. This increase can be attributed to the completion of reapplications for G.I.S. which determines eligibility for A.A.I.P. as well. Single, widowed or divorced persons comprised 53.2 percent of the total recipients. The remaining 46.8 percent were married, with the majority being two-pensioner couples.

The number of recipients receiving maximum, partial and minimum A.A.I.P. benefits by marital status is shown in Table 3. A.A.I.P. benefits decrease with an increase in income other than G.I.S. or O.A.S. Singles and two-pensioner couples with no outside income received full benefits as shown in Table 1. Maximum benefits were received by 39.8 percent of singles in this quarter compared to 17.3 percent of two-pensioner couples. This indicates that a large proportion of singles had no outside income. Couples receiving only one O.A.S. pension or a pension plus Spouse's Allowance were eligible for full benefits if the couple's combined annual income was below \$1,965.48 and \$2,640.00, respectively. As a result, a larger proportion of one-pensioner couples were eligible for maximum benefits. In the July-September quarter, 48.1 percent of one-pensioner couples without Spouse's Allowance and 56.4 percent of one-pensioner couples with Spouse's Allowance received full benefits. Maximum benefits were received by 33.1 percent of the total recipients, partial benefits by 58.4 percent and the \$10 minimum by 8.5 percent.

Effective April 1978, a new policy was implemented whereby pensioners with minor increase in their income from sources other than O.A.S. and G.I.S. will not receive a downward adjustment in their A.A.I.P. benefits. In September 1978, 15,406 pensioners (19.5 percent) benefited from this new policy. The annual cost of this policy is estimated to be one-quarter of a million dollars.

TABLE 1

MAXIMUM MONTHLY BENEFITS FROM OLD AGE SECURITY,
GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT, AND ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN
BY MARITAL STATUS FOR THE QUARTER
July-September 1978

Marital Status	Federal			Total
	Old Age Security	Maximum Guaranteed Income Supplement	Maximum Alberta Assured Income Plan	
Single, Widowed, Divorced	159.79	112.08	45.01	316.88
Married:				
Two-Pensioner Couples				
Each	159.79	99.52	47.20	306.51
Total	319.58	199.04	94.40	613.02
One-Pensioner Couples				
With No Spouse's Allowance	159.79	112.08	45.01	316.88
With Spouse's Allowance				
Head	159.79	99.52	45.01	304.32
Spouse	159.79	99.52	*	259.31
Total	319.58	199.04	45.01	563.63

* Recipients of Spouse's Allowance are not eligible for the Alberta Assured Income Plan

TABLE 2

ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN RECIPIENTS BY MARITAL
STATUS FOR THE QUARTER
July-September 1978

Marital Status	Previous Quarterly Average		Current Quarter			Average July-September		Percentage Change Between Quarters
	#	%	Jul	Aug	Sept	#	%	
Single, Widowed, Divorced	41,420	53.3	41,955	42,046	42,101	42,034	53.2	1.48
Married:								
Two-Pensioner Couples	28,075	36.1	28,494	28,562	28,646	28,567	36.1	1.75
One-Pensioner Couples								
With No Spouse's Allowance	3,034	3.9	3,092	3,089	3,065	3,082	3.9	1.58
With Spouse's Allowance	5,219	6.7	5,388	5,359	5,325	5,357	6.8	2.64
Total Married	36,328	46.7	36,974	37,010	37,036	37,006	46.8	1.87
TOTAL	77,748	100.0	78,929	79,056	79,137	79,040	100.0	1.66

TABLE 3

ALBERTA ASSURED INCOME PLAN RECIPIENTS BY MARITAL STATUS
AND KINDS OF BENEFITS FOR THE QUARTER
July-September 1978

Marital Status	Maximum Benefit		Partial Benefit		\$10 Minimum		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Single, Widowed	16,711	39.8	21,773	51.8	3,550	8.4	42,034	100.0
Divorced								
Married:								
Two-Pensioner Couples	4,936	17.5	21,205	74.2	2,426	8.5	28,567	100.0
One-Pensioner Couples								
With No Spouse's Allowance	1,483	48.1	1,183	38.4	416	13.5	3,082	100.0
With Spouse's Allowance	3,018	56.4	1,983	37.0	356	6.6	5,357	100.0
Total Married	9,437	25.5	24,371	65.9	3,198	8.6	37,006	100.0
TOTAL	26,148	33.1	46,144	58.4	6,748	8.5	79,040	100.0
Total Previous Quarter	25,995	33.4	45,554	58.6	6,199	8.0	77,748	100.0
Change from Previous Quarter	+153	-0.3	+590	-0.2	+549	+0.5	+1,292	-
Percentage Change Over Previous Quarter		+0.59		+1.30		+8.86		+1.66

GLOSSARY

Alberta Assured Income Plan (A.A.I.P.) - This is a provincial income supplement program for senior citizens in receipt of the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement (passed in June 1975). This program is income-tested through the G.I.S. eligibility, with A.A.I.P. benefits reduced by twenty-five cents for each dollar of outside income. However, there are no reductions of A.A.I.P. below a \$10 minimum benefit.

Caseload - The number of households, or units, assisted; these units consisting of one or more persons. Caseload is often used to refer to the collection heads of these units.

Guaranteed Income Supplement (G.I.S.) - O.A.S. pensioners are entitled to a monthly supplement if they have a low income. The supplement amount depends on the pensioner's marital status and amount of income (excluding the O.A.S. pension and assets). Income includes monies received from other retirement pensions, earnings, interest, dividends, rent, etc. Joint incomes are used for married couples. For every two dollars of such income, G.I.S. is reduced by one dollar. G.I.S. is adjusted quarterly to reflect the rise in cost of living. All G.I.S. recipients must reapply annually. G.I.S. recipients are automatically qualified to receive the Alberta Assured Income Plan. For every dollar of income, the A.A.I.P. benefit is reduced by twenty-five cents, to a minimum of \$10.

Municipal Caseload - A municipality is responsible for assisting an employable person who is a resident of the municipality and:

- (1) was a resident of the municipality during the twelve months immediately preceding his application, and
- (2) did not, during any part of these twelve months, receive material aid from the province or any other municipality.

The municipality is reimbursed 90 percent by the province for expenditures incurred.

Old Age Security (O.A.S.) - Senior Citizens aged 65 or over who meet residence requirement are eligible for a federal monthly O.A.S. pension. This is a demogrant program with benefits not affected by the recipient's needs or income. Benefits are adjusted quarterly to increases in the Consumer Price Index; however, index declines do not reduce benefit amounts.

Reasons for Assistance - The social allowance program is available to those persons who lack the resources or income sufficient to meet their needs and those of their dependents. Eligibility for assistance is defined within the following categories for each application; the social worker assigns a reason for assistance on the following rank order basis. Applicants are assigned to the first category of reason for assistance that applies to them, proceeding through the list of reasons in their specified order.

Age (Person 60 or over) - A person may be considered eligible for assistance under this reason if 60 years of age or older. Prior to November 1971, women between 55 and 60 years of age were also eligible for social allowance by reason of age alone.

Person with Dependent Children - This reason is applicable to the single parent family where the parent (of either sex) actually has custody of or is personally caring for a dependent child.

Physical Ill Health/Disability - This reason is applicable to a person with a physical disability, impairment, or illness, regardless of expected duration, which prevents rendering services for wages sufficient to meet the person's needs and those of dependents.

Mental Ill Health - This reason is applicable to persons having an obvious mental illness or a medical certificate or assessment is required if the disability is not readily recognizable.

Mental Retardation - This reason is applicable to persons who are mentally retarded. A medical certificate or assessment is required if the disability is not readily recognizable.

Employables - This reason is applicable to persons who are unemployed and seeking employment or whose employability may be under assessment, as well as to persons employed full- or part-time with insufficient income. This reason also applies to persons temporarily unavailable for work because of schooling, pregnancy, or in jail for less than 90 days.

Unsuitable for Employment - This reason is applicable to cases which have been assessed as socially, psychologically, or otherwise unsuited for employment. Such cases would be transferred from other reasons for assistance after the assessment period.

Guardian Social Allowance - This is an extension of the social allowance program designed to assist persons acting as guardians and providing care to children placed in their homes by parents unable or unwilling to provide such care.

Recipients - In contrast to the term "caseload", this term refers to the unit heads plus their dependents. The number of recipients on assistance is approximately two or three times as great as the caseload.

Spouse's Allowance - Eligible spouses of O.A.S. recipients can apply for a federal Spouse's Allowance. Eligibility depends on age (60-64) and residency requirements. The maximum benefits are equivalent to the O.A.S. pension plus maximum G.I.S. at the married rate. For every four dollars of the couple's annual outside incomes up to \$2,640 the Spouse's Allowance is reduced by three dollars. Income(s) in excess of \$2,640 reduces the Spouse's Allowance by fifty cents for every two dollars of income. Spouses receiving this allowance are not eligible for A.A.I.P. benefits.

